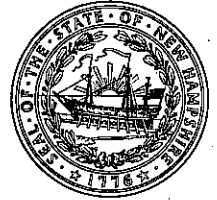




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

March 3, 2009

The Honorable Judith T. Spang, Chairman
Resources, Recreation, and Development
Room 305
Legislative Office Building
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 452, designating segments of the Ammonoosuc River as protected under the rivers management and protection program.

Dear Chairman Spang:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB 452, which would designate segments of the Ammonoosuc River as a protected river pursuant to the Rivers Management and Protection Program (RMPP). This designation would include the entire upper reach of the river from the White Mountain National Forest Boundary near Lower Falls in the Town of Carroll to the Lakes of the Clouds in Sargents Purchase. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) supports this legislation.

The proposed designation of the Ammonosuc River, Upper Reach as a protected river under the RMPP is consistent with the conclusions from our review of the Ammonoosuc River, Upper Reach nomination in 2008. Our conclusions were summarized in my letter to you dated September 30, 2008 (copy attached) in which I stated that *"designation of the Ammonoosuc River would be consistent with the purposes of RSA 483, and I am strongly recommending its inclusion in the RMPP."* In developing this recommendation, DES considered the nomination package submitted by the Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee, public comment, and the recommendation for RMPP designation by the Rivers Management Advisory Committee (RMAC), as submitted to me by letter dated September 12, 2008 (copy attached), from Dr. Kenneth Kimball, RMAC Chair. Our detailed evaluation is presented in detail in the attached report, The Ammonoosuc River, Upper Reach: A Report to the General Court, dated January 2009.

While we support this designation, please note that DES is concerned about its long term ability to effectively implement RSA 483 as new designated rivers are added to the program, thus increasing demands for DES staff time, without providing additional resources to DES. For example, our ability to support each of the Local Advisory Committees will continue to diminish proportionately as new designated rivers are added to the program.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important legislation. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Steve Couture, Rivers Coordinator at 271-8801, or me at 271-2958.

Sincerely,


Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

Enclosures
TSB/smc

cc: Representative Scott Merrick
Representative Evalyn Merrick
Representative Susan Ford
Representative Herbert Richardson
Charlie Ryan, Chair, Ammonoosuc River Local Advisory Committee (via electronic mail)
RMAC Members (via electronic mail)

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